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GOVERNOR PATRICK VISITS THOMAS PRINCE SCHOOL TO CELEBRATE THE START OF THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

Princeton's K-8 School Focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math Curriculum

PRINCETON - Governor Deval Patrick today joined state education officials to visit with students and faculty at Princeton's Thomas Prince School to celebrate the start of the 2014-2015 school year. The K-8 school is in its second year of implementing a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) focused curriculum for students.

"As a new school year gets underway, I applaud the educators at the Thomas Prince School for their innovative work to help their students learn in new and innovative ways," said Governor Patrick. "Our investments in education are among the best we can make as they will have an impact for decades to come."

The Thomas Prince School has partnered with Worcester Polytechnic Institute on its STEAM initiative, which through a multidisciplinary setting uses innovative teaching methods and team-based learning to increase STEAM literacy. These practices strive to empower students with knowledge and confidence, while preparing them to compete in future careers. Governor Patrick and Secretary of Education Matthew Malone visited students in a 4th grade classroom studying the local nature trails behind the school as part of a blended Science, Art, English and Reading curriculum. The visit also included joining 6th graders working on an Engineering challenge project to solve a real world problems and visiting the School's organic vegetable garden that students plant and harvest.

"Engaging students at an early age with Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math is critical to prepare students for success in high school and college as well as to compete in the global economy," said Secretary of Education Matthew Malone. "The Thomas Prince School is leading the way and will be a model for other schools in the Commonwealth."

The Thomas Prince School is a member of the Wachusett Regional School district and serves 392 students from Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland and Sterling, as well as other surround towns that participate in school choice. The School is designated as a Level 1, meaning it is one of the highest performing schools in the Commonwealth, based on MCAS results.

"I'm so fortunate to work in such a highly respected school district with innovative staff, committed parents and motivated students," said Thomas Prince School Principal Mary Cringan.

The Patrick Administration has made historic investments in K-12 education and increased investment in early education so that Massachusetts students are more prepared for success in the classroom than ever before. The FY15 budget funds Chapter 70 at unprecedented \$4.4 billion and regional transportation \$70.2 million, which is the highest level in recent years. The budget also includes \$250,000 to establish the Massachusetts Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Teacher Corps, with the goal of increasing the number of STEM teachers in the Commonwealth.

For more information on the Patrick Administration's strategic education goals, please visit www.ma.gov/edu.

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